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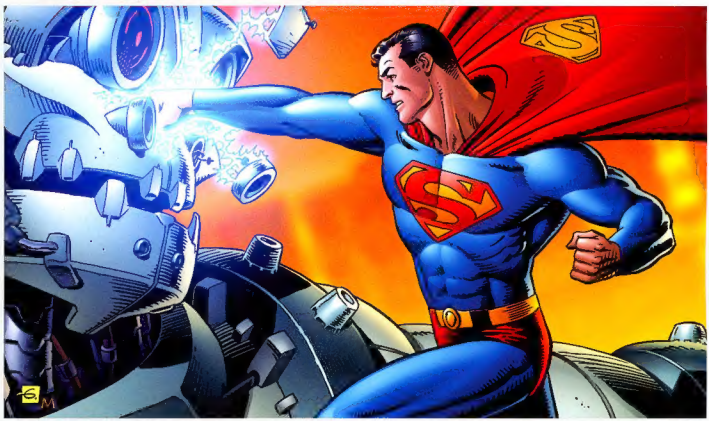
ACTION COMICS

841
SEP 06

DO YOU THINK IT'S HIM?

It's him - 30%
It's not him - 45%
It's Batman - 10%
It's Plastic Man - 6%
It's Elvis - 4%
It's Santa - 3%
Other - 2%



HE'S BACK, BUT IS HE A FRAUD?

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FIRESTORM. NIGHTWING. THE TEEN TITANS: ARE THEY IN ON THE HOAX?

Answers Inside!

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ESRB

DEEP SPACE
SHIPMENT AWAY. DENEBIAN FIRE-JEWELS TO ALTAIR-7.
NEW BID RECEIVED FROM GAUTAR OF KELUDRU -- UP SEVEN.
PAYMENT FROM HIGH BIDDER FOR MAGNETIC-FIELD SCULPTURE RECEIVED. SHIPMENT APPROVED.
ALERT. ALERT. ANOMALOUS DATA FROM TRACKING OUTPOST SIGMA-3321. OBJECT DETECTED. CLASSED: EXOTICA. OPS ALERT.
OPS IS LISTEN. DESCRIBE.
UNREGISTERED VESSEL SKIPPING IN AND OUT OF UN-SPACE.
UNKNOWN DRIVE. METALLURGICAL CONTENT UNKNOWN.
SCANNERS CANNOT PENETRATE HULL.
VISUAL PROCESSING...
CONTENTS SHIELDED. MEANS CONTENTS VALUABLE.
PROJECT TARGET TRAJECTORY: WHERE GO, WHERE LAND, HOW CATCH.
SEEKING APPROVAL A-LEVEL.
...FINEST QUALITY, GRAVUM. PRIMITIVE, BUT FOUR WARRIOR CASTES. ONLY SIX THOUSAND AVAILABLE, AND DARTARI IS ALREADY EAGER FOR --
OPS TO AUCTIONEER. IS DATA, SCREEN GAMMA GAMMA. ACQUIRE?
EXCUSE, GRAVUM. YES, YOUR BID-LINE IS OPEN.
INTRIGUING, OPS. LOCATE TARGET'S DESTINATION. AT THE VERY LEAST --

I'M ME ALL RIGHT, FELLAS.
IF YOU HAVE THE MEANS TO STOP CARAPAX, GO RIGHT AHEAD. I'LL BE FINE.
BUT I THINK --
-- I CAN HANDLE HIM!
HAH!
IF YOU WERE SUPERMAN, I'D THINK YOU'D KNOW -- EIGHT MONTHS AGO, I INSTALLED THERMOCOUPLE CONVERTERS BENEATH MY EXO-PLATES --
-- AND CAN CONVERT YOUR HEAT VISION DIRECTLY INTO STRENGTH!
NOT BAD, HM?
FIRST CHURCH
-NH!-
This is getting irritating.
I spent a year inactive, powerless. I returned to action recently in Metropolis. Everyone there saw it, believes it's really me --
-- but to the rest of the world --
GRK KKKK
WEAKENING, YOU FAKE?
NO --
-- let's just say the jury's still out.
AHRHH!
GREAT KRYPTON!
WHAT IN -- ?

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HEY, SUPERMAN. OR WHOEVER.
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THE ASSIST. BUT I WAS ON MY WAY SOUTH, AND YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU COULD USE A LITTLE HELP.
ONLY THING IS, THIS GUY'S ARMOR IS TOUGHER THAN IT LOOKS. I WAS GONNA TRANSMUTE IT TO HYDROGEN, LET IT JUST DRIFT OFF HIM --
-- BUT THERE'S SOME WEIRD ENERGY FIELD THAT'S RESISTING ME.
EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE EVENTS OF FIRESTORM #26.
FIRESTORM, NO!
CARAPAX ISN'T INSIDE THE SUIT -- HE IS THE SUIT! IT'S LIVING ARMOR -- IF YOU TURN IT INTO GAS, YOU'LL KILL HIM!
OH.
SORRY. MY BAD. IN THAT CASE --
-- HOW'S THIS?
AHAAHA.
WHAT DID YOU --
WHMMPP

SMALL SNACKS. POWERFUL FLAVOR.

FRUIT FLAVORED SNACKS

IN STORES NOW!

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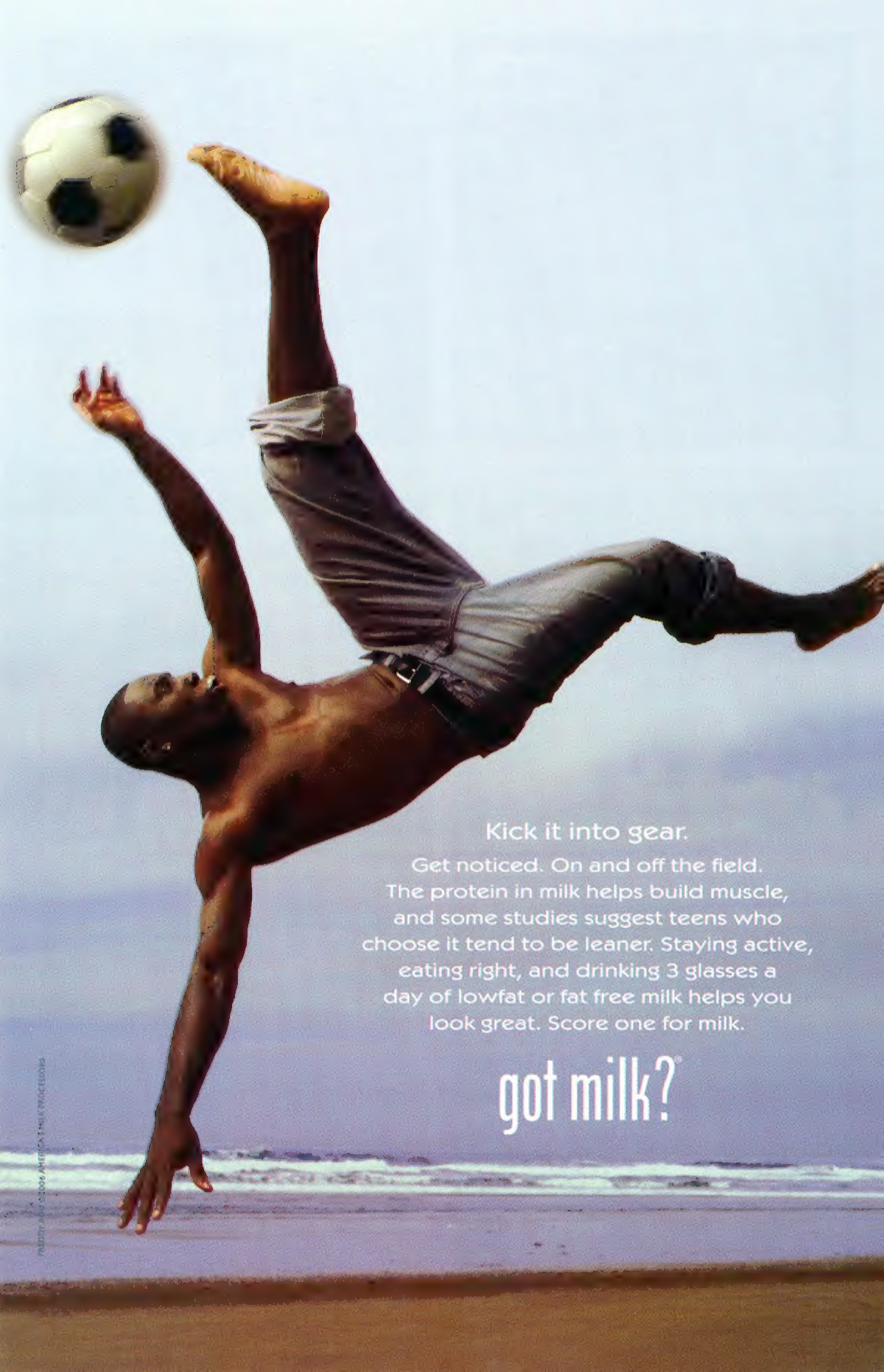
I'VE ACTUALLY GIVEN THE "HOW DO YOU STOP A LIVING MACHINE WITHOUT KILLING IT" THING SOME THOUGHT. JUST TO PASS THE TIME, YOU KNOW?
-- WHICH STILL SUPPLIES HIM WITH JUICE, BUT A LOT MORE SLOWLY.
SO HE'S ESSENTIALLY UNCONSCIOUS. GOOD THINKING.
HE'S FULL OF COPPER WIRING. CARRYING ELECTRICITY. I COULDN'T AFFECT HIS SHELL, BUT I DID TURN ABOUT HALF THE COPPER TO GERMANIUM --
SO, uh, ARE YOU SUPERMAN? OR A NEW GUY? BECAUSE I'VE HEARD --
IT'S ME.
COOL. WELL, EITHER WAY, YOU SMACKED HIM UP PRETTY EFFECTIVELY.
SO, uh, IF YOU WERE A FAKE, YOU'RE A GOOD ONE.
THANKS. I THINK.
YOU GUYS NEED A HAND WITH HIM?
NO, NO -- WE'RE GOOD.
Church group's okay, coming out to give thanks no one was hurt. A couple of fires, already dying out. No reason to stay…
HERE, HE'S HEAVIER THAN HE LOOKS --
WHOA. COOL.
Huh.
Firestorm's relatively new on the scene, but they're more ready to accept help from him than from me.
It shouldn't bother me, but…


Kick it into gear.
Get noticed. On and off the field. The protein in milk helps build muscle, and some studies suggest teens who choose it tend to be leaner. Staying active, eating right, and drinking 3 glasses a day of lowfat or fat free milk helps you look great. Score one for milk.
got milk?

HEY, LORRAINE. YOU'RE PRETTY QUIET IN THERE. I THOUGHT THAT WAS SOME SLICK WORK, NO?
IT WAS FINE.
BUT YOU KNOW, FIRESTORM IS A MERGED BEING. YOU MAY BE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT, BUT I'D THINK YOU'D CHECK WITH ME --
-- BEFORE YOU'RE RUDE TO SOMEONE LIKE SUPERMAN.
RUDE? I WASN'T --
"IF YOU'RE A FAKE, YOU'RE A GOOD ONE!"?
WELL, HE --
NEVER MIND. LET'S JUST GET DOWN TO WASHINGTON.
I DO HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITIES AS A SENATOR, AND --
FINE, FINE. WE'RE OUTTA HERE.
BWWNNNNN
APPRAISER ECHNIS-TAO, UNCLOAKING.
NO SIGN OF TECHNO-ELEMENTS IN TARGET-SHIP'S HULL. NO ISOLATION OF EXPECTED LANDING POINT, AS VET.
BUT CAN REPORT NON-MATERIAL ITEMS OF INTEREST...
OPS IS LISTEN. DESCRIBE.
FAITH. SPIRITUAL BELIEF IN MANY FLAVORS ON THIS PLANET. SCANNING: CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM, BUDDHISM, MORE, MANY SUB-SECTS...
PERHAPS OF VALUE TO THE CLERICS OF ZIGARRA, THE PANTHEIAX, THE --
WH-WHAT ARE YOU D --?
OPS IS REPORT.
-- ONLY SIX THOUSAND, DAR'TARL, AND GRAVUM HAS ALREADY PLACED A FLOOR BID OF --
EXCUSE. THREE MOMENTI.
CYCLE APPRAISALS, OPS. STEADY ROTATION.

-- NO EXPECTATION NOTED FOR TARGET-SHIP --
-- NO LANDING FACILITIES FOR TARGET-SHIP --
-- MANY EXOTIC STRUCTURES --
-- RUINED UNDERSEA CIVILIZATION --
-- WEST EDGE OF CONTINENT, STRUCTURE OF HIGH PROJECTED INTEREST TO INCARCERATOR OF TAKRON IV --
-- YOUNG CIVILIZATIONS, BUT --
-- INTRIGUING ARTIFACTS --
-- CUSTOMERS EXPECTED FOR --
-- HIGH INTEREST TO --
VERY WELL. SUSPEND VESSEL SEARCH TEMPORARILY.
CLEARANCE FOR ACQUISITION, APPRAISER THAUTO-MU THE INCARCERATOR WILL BE PLEASED.
CLEARANCE ALSO FOR ACQUISITION, APPRAISER ECHNIS-TAO. BUT LIMIT TO MATERIAL STRUCTURES FOR NOW WIDE FLAVOR SAMPLE.
OTHER CLEARANCES TO COME.
DAR'TARL! WHERE WERE WE? YES, YES, YOUR BIDDING LINE IS ALWAYS --
OPS COMMAND, ECHNIS-TAO. ACQUISITIONER DISPATCHED. MULTIPLE SUB-APPRAISALS REPORTED. ACQUISITIONERS DISPATCHED.
EXCELLENT.
ACQUISITIONER MATERIALIZED. ACQUISITION UNDER WAY.
SUB-APPRAISAL CREDIT PERCENTAGES AWARDED TO YOU.
UH?
AHH!

ACQUISITIONER 43-RRF, FORWARD.
FAITH-STRUCTURE DESIGNATED BY MY ETHERIC SIGN. ACQUIRE -- AND TRANSMIT!
HNNNNNN
AWH!
AHHH!
RUN! RUN!
AIEEEE!
HNNNNNNNNN
HUH? LORRAINE, YOU FEEL SOMETHING?
STANDS OUT IN THE MATRIX HERE LIKE A HIGH-PITCHED SQUEAL. CAN YOU SEE IT?
NOT YET. GOTTA DOUBLE BACK...
HNNNNNNNNNNN
UH-OH. BIG ROBOT, DIGITALLY STEALING A CHURCH. I THINK.
FIGHT THE ROBOT, OR CHASE THE DATASTREAM THAT USED TO BE A CHURCH?
CHASE THE CHURCH, AT LEAST FOR NOW. THERE MIGHT BE PEOPLE IN IT. WHERE'S IT HEADED?
NORTH. SORRY, LORRAINE. LOOKS LIKE YOURE GOING TO MISS YOUR FLOOR VOTE --
-- BUT I MIGHT ACTUALLY MAKE IT TO CLASS ON TIME FOR ONCE -- !

OUTRAGEOUS ORIGINAL
TASTES LIKE NOTHING ELSE
EXCEPT FOR ITSELF
WHICH MAKES IT SO ORIGINAL.
new
WRIGLEY'S
Hubba Bubba
Max
A WHOLE NEW
KIND OF BUBBLE

METROPOLIS --
RESPECT HIS MEMORY! TRUTH NOW!
OH, GOOD LORD.
AND THEY'RE ALL FROM OUT OF TOWN, OF COURSE...
THEY WANT PROOF. IS THAT SO BAD?
SO BAD? THIS IS GLOBAL, CLARK. HECK, NEWSTIME'S OFFERED ME A COVER FEATURE.
"IS HE A FAKE?!"
WHAT'D YOU TELL 'EM?
I'M THINKING ABOUT IT.
I MEAN, IT IS A COVER FEATURE. BUT I HATE THAT PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE IN YOU. AND I DON'T WANT TO FEED IT. DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU?
OF COURSE IT DOES, LOIS. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.
THE GOVERNMENT WANTS ME TO COME IN FOR TESTS, BUT I'M NOT SURE THAT'S SUCH A --
GUYS! GUYS, COME QUICK! GIANT ROBOTS, ALL OVER THE WORLD!
Hm?
GIANT ROBOTS?
-- HAVE APPEARED OVER SAN FRANCISCO, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON --
-- SEVERAL OVER NEW YORK CITY, CAIRO, PARIS --
LANE, COORDINATE WITH THE WASHINGTON BUREAU. MEG, PARIS. KENT --
ON MY WAY, CHIEF. I'LL HANDLE NEW YORK...

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MANHATTAN --
-- FAITH-STRUCTURE DESIGNATED "ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL."
ACQUIRE...
-- HERE TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY, OFFICER. WHAT'S GOING ON?
DON'T KNOW.
BUT ROBO-SPIDERS HAVE BEEN SPOTTED OVER THE MUSLIM CENTER IN FLUSHING AND THE EINSTEIN SYNAGOGUE AT YESHIVA UNIVERSI --
-- AAH!
The robots are already active, stealing places of worship, by the time I hear about it. I'm on my way, but these days -
- New York has heroes of her own -
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT...
DIGITAL DATASTREAM. MAYBE...
POLARIZE.
SHNNGGG

heroScape: QUEST FOR CONCAN'S CASTLE

TY TEMPLETON-WRITER • STEVE SCOTT-PENCILLER • NATHAN MASSENGIL-INKER
CARRIE STRACHAN-COLORIST • NICK J. NAPOLITANO-LETTERER
JAYE GARDNER-EDITOR • CRAIG VAN NESS, STEPHEN BAKER, RAB DAVIAU--GAME DESIGNERS

SEE WHAT YOUR ATTITUDE BRINGS YOU, SYVARRIS? IF WE HADN'T...
AHHH! THIS GROUP CAN'T GIVE US MUCH OF A FIGHT!
WE'LL BE SAFE AS LONG AS THEY DON'T GET ANY CLOSER.
I'M NOT ABOUT TO BE UNDONE BY NE-GOK-SA AND HIS MARRO ARMY BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T RESIST ATTACKING THEM.
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE TERM "SUPERIOR FORCES"?!?
THERE IS NOTHING SUPERIOR ABOUT THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR UTGAR.
IF NE-GOK-SA GETS CLOSER, HE WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTROL OUR THOUGHTS WITH THAT POWER OF HIS...
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE UGLY MONSTER TRY!
NO YOU WOULDN'T, SYVARRIS! I'VE FELT THE GRIP OF HIS EVIL MIND INSIDE MY SKULL.
SGT. ALEXANDER!
THAT'S THE CAVE OF SHADOWS.
KEEP UP THE PACE! WE'RE STILL NOT SAFE UNTIL WE GET THROUGH HERE!

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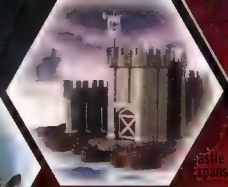
MAJOR Q-9

Master

SGT. DRAKE ALEXANDER



Castle Expansion

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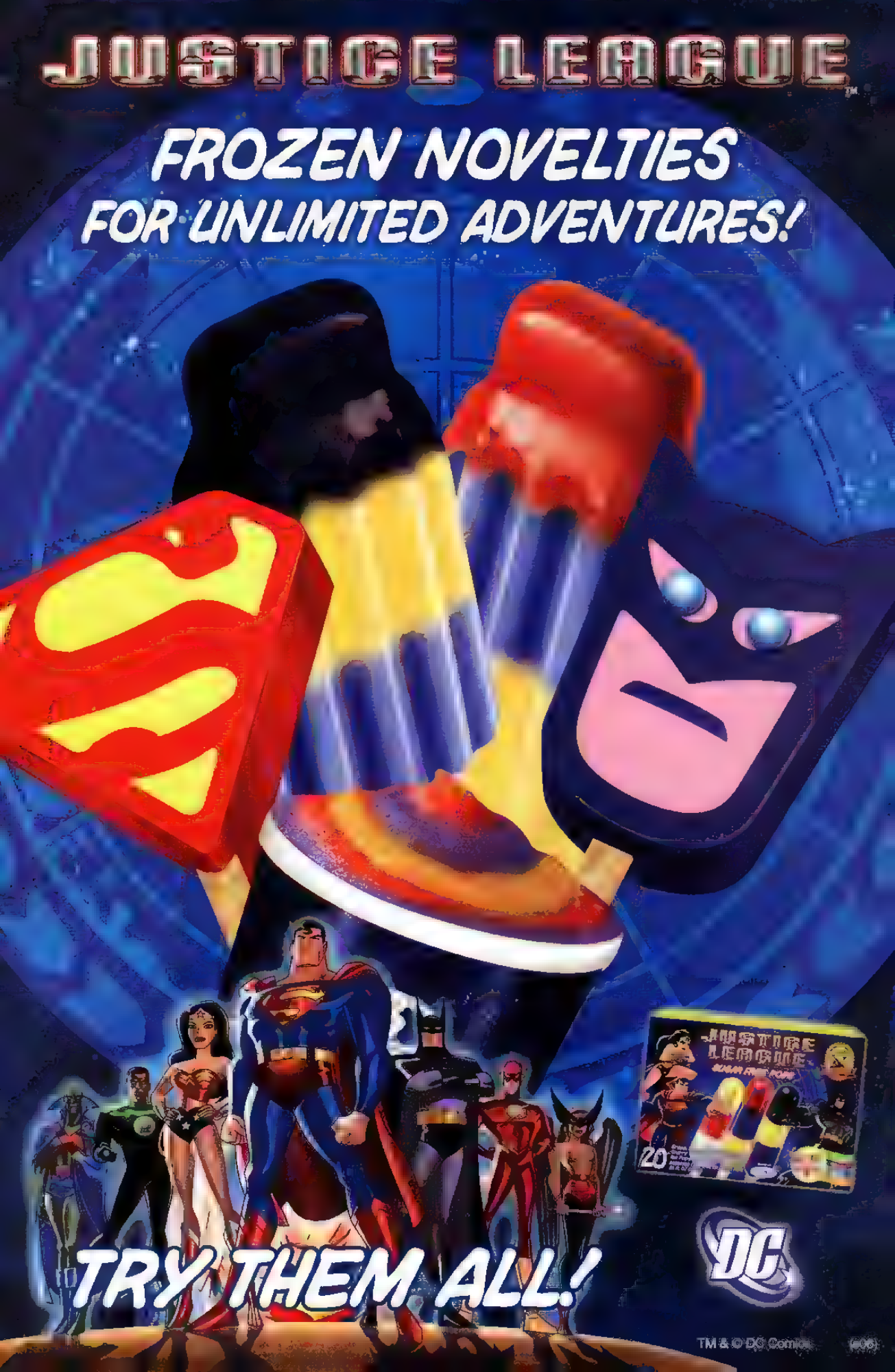
OKAY, NEED SOME HEIGHT...
SPNG
TNG
AAAAAAND...
CRAP.
NIGHTWING. IT'S ME.
OF COURSE IT'S YOU. WHO ELSE WOULD YOU BE?
YOU'D BE SURPRISED.
TRYING TO DISRUPT THE STREAM AND REFLECT IT BACK WAS A GOOD IDEA --
JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH. LOOK, REPORTS ARE COMING IN FROM TWO OTHER SITES IN THE CITY. CAN YOU CHECK WHERE THE STREAMS ARE GOING?

That's Nightwing. No wasted time on "What do you think it is, what do you suppose they're after?" Just efficient and pragmatic
I check the streams. They converge, head out over the East River, and -
NIGHTWING, I FIGURE YOU HAVE A DIRECTIONAL MIKE ON ME AND ARE HEARING THIS.
THE STREAMS ARE COMING TOGETHER INTO A SINGLE LIGHT-PACKET, SEETHING WITH DIGITAL DATA. IT MUST BE A STORAGE CONFIGURATION --
-- TRANSMISSIONS BEING COMBINED WITHIN FOR TRANSMISSION ELSEWHERE.
I'm about to try touching it, when --
HM? ANOTHER ONE -- THIS ONE TRACKING BACK TO BALTIMORE. AND FIRESTORM IN HOT PURSUIT.
I GUESS MORE HAPPENED BACK THERE THAN I --
SUPERMAN. SCOOT BACK DOWN HERE. WE MAY HAVE TROUBLE.
He's right
NATIONAL GUARD UNITS. LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE TIRED OF TRYING TO COMMUNICATE WITH THAT ROBO-SPIDER AND GETTING NOTHING.
IF THEY ATTACK, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'LL --

OPS! OPS, PRIORITY LISTEN!
AM BEING APPROACHED BY BEINGS PILOTING OR HOLDING PRIMITIVE WEAPONRY. THREAT LEVEL NIL, BUT OPS --
-- THESE CREATURES FAIRLY GLOW WITH AGGRESSION! DEEP, NUANCED --
-- IN HIGH DEMAND BY CERTAIN PLACID AND BARBARIC CUSTOMERS! WHY, THE BATTROIDS OF IPSI-QUATTRO ALONE WOULD --
ACTING ON APPRAISER INITIATIVE. ACQUIRING, TRANSMITTING SAMPLE --
ON MY COMMAND! FIRE AT --
HNN.
HNN.
...NOW!
Firestorm will have to wait. Or Nightwing can deal with him. This looks serious.
Have these men really had their aggression taken from them?
MAJOR?
I -- I DON'T -- WHAT AM --
MAJOR ANDREWS! REPORT! REPORT!
SITUATION ROOM. THE WHITE HOUSE --
EQUIPMENT-CAM PICKING UP SUPERMAN.
SUPERMAN? HE'S NOT CLEARED ANYMORE, IS HE? WHAT'S HE --?
I DON'T LIKE THIS. IF THAT REALLY IS SUPERMAN, HE'S BEEN ON OUR SIDE FOR YEARS. IF HE ISN'T...

WE MAY HAVE A MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM, GENTLEMEN.
I HOPE HE'S THE REAL SUPERMAN JUST AS MUCH AS ALL OF YOU DO.
BUT EVEN IF HE IS, HIS CLEARANCE WAS REVOKED A YEAR AGO. HE'D BE AN UNVETTED ALIEN PRESENCE, AND THIS IS AN ALIEN THREAT...
GIVE ME THAT A SEC. WILL YOU?
UH -- SURE --
GENERAL HASTINGS, I CAN HEAR YOU. AND THIS IS RIDICULOUS. I'M NOT IN ON THIS THREAT -- YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT. I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU, JUST LIKE I ALWAYS HAVE.
THIS IS A SERIOUS SITUATION. WE SHOULD BE WORKING TOGETHER, COORDINATING --
SIR, YOU ARE NOT CLEARED TO USE THIS LINE. RETURN IT TO THE OFFICER IMMEDIATELY.
BUT --
FURTHERMORE, IT IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE TO RECORD, SURVEIL OR EAVESDROP ON TOP-SECURITY COMMUNICATIONS.
IF YOU ARE SUPERMAN --
-- I AM HEREBY ORDERING YOU TO END THIS RADIO CALL, AND STAND DOWN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
UPDATE, SIR. THE SAN FRANCISCO SITUATION'S GOING CRITICAL --
OH LORD --
SAN FRANCISCO BAY --
OH, MAN --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-- THIS IS SO NOT GOOD -- !
RELAX, KID DEVIL --
-- THE TEEN TITANS EAT "SO NOT GOOD" FOR BREAKFAST. NOT THAT I'M DISAGREEING WITH YOU, MIND YOU --
-- A GIANT ROBOT SPIDER STAR-TREK-TRANSPORTING ALCATRAZ -- ISLAND AND ALL -- IS UP THERE ON ANYONE'S LIST OF PROBLEM DAYS.
BUT I'M BETTING ON US.
HUH. COULD BE IT'S GETTING WORSE, WONDER GIRL. THAT'S A SPATIAL PORTAL OPENING UP, AND --
PRE-EMPTIVE BID REGISTERED FROM TAKRON-IV. ACQUIRE WITH ALL DUE SPEED. PLUS, RESISTANCE DETECTED.
PACIFIER ON THE WAY.
GI!
AW, MAN. WHY DO I HAVE TO BE RIGHT ALL THE TIME?
WHAT IS IT, CYBORG?
SCANS SAY...
BIIIG TROUBLE.
LIKE WHAT ISN'T IN OUR LINE OF WORK, VIC?
YOU GUYS HANG BACK -- I'LL BREAK IT INTO A MILLION --

SPLAMM
UH-OH.
SHE'S DAZED -- FALLING!
BUT IF THAT NEWS CHOPPER'S CLOSE ENOUGH --
K-KLIK
GOT YOU!
F
4!
AW, MAN -- FIVE GETS YOU TEN THOSE THINGS BLOW UP REAL GOOD
NOT A PROBLEM, TITANS! NOT SO LONG AS YOU'VE GOT LI'L OLD ME --
-- AND MY ENERGIZED BO-STAFF!
RAVAGER!
WHAT'S SHE -- SHE CAN'T FLY!
AND ROBIN CAN'T REACH HER ON HIS BACKSWINGS! I DUNNO -- GIRL'S CRAZY --

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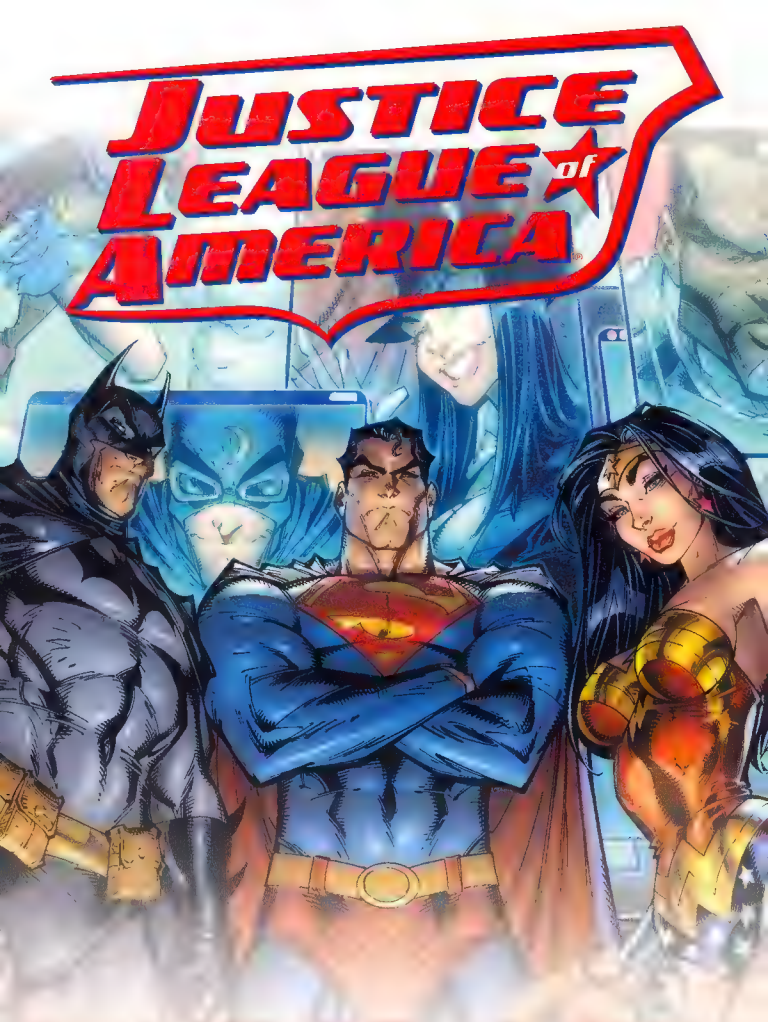
DC

IS SHE, VIC?
MAYBE SO, MAYBE NO!
FIRST, LET ME DEAL WITH THESE LITTLE BEAUTIES, BEFORE THE TIMED FUSES MY ENHANCED HEARING PICKED UP BURN DOWN --
TAK
KRAK
TAK
AND THEN, MAYBE I CAN HITCH A RIDE --
-- WITH WHAT MY ENHANCED VISION SAW COMING UP FAST --
BOMM
KBOM
KOOM
KOOM
CHOOM
KRROOOMM
I heard what the Joint Chiefs were saying about San Francisco, and I knew I wasn't going to get any further with them.
HI! MISS ME?
But this is ridiculous This is a global emergency, and with no active Justice League, and the government not trusting me
I understand why they're cautious. But this threatens lives, on a gargantuan scale

Maybe once this is over, I should submit to their tests. But right now --
TAKRON-IV ACQUISITION DIGITIZING. 83% COMPLETE...
What's being taken seems scattershot, random -- but the constructs seem like servants, like they're following someone's orders --
So if I want any information --
ALERT! ALERT! APPROACHING BEING REGISTERS AS --
-- I'll get it the old-fashioned way: By drawing out whomever's behind these things --
AHH, HAH! I CAN!
KRAAAMM
OPS? Ah, OPS?
ADD TO PREVIOUS REPORT: NOT ONLY DESTROYED PACIFIER --
-- WE NOW HAVE ACQUISITIONER BREACH.
PLEASE SCAN. ADVISE.

ACQUISITIONER BREACH?
SCANNING...
SCANNING...
CYBORGS! THAT ENERGY THE ROBOT'S RELEASING -- WHAT IS IT?
IT'S LUMPY WITH ANTI-PARTICLES -- NEGATIVE TAU LEPTONS, ANTI-HIGGS BOSONS AND MORE! IF IT BLOWS, IT COULD SLICE THE PLANET IN HALF!
NOT SO GOOD, eh?
WELL THEN, WE'D BETTER MAKE SURE --
"-- THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN -- !"
OPS? THIS HAD BETTER BE IMPORTANT. I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A NINE-WAY DEAL BETWEEN THE RULERS OF --
SLOW DOWN, OPS I CAN BARELY --
WHAT?! A PACIFIER AND AN ACQUISITIONER? BOTH LOST WITHIN MINUTES OF ONE ANOTHER? BOTH DESTROYED? AND BY --

BY A SINGLE HUMANOID? BUT THAT'S -- THAT'S --
HOLD ALL TRANSACTIONS, OPS --
WHBMMM...
Massive gravimetric displacement --
Shock wave --
NNH!
What in -- ?



BRAD MELTZER ED BENES

COVERS BY MICHAEL TURNER & J. SCOTT CAMPBELL

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AUGUST 2006

dccomics.com

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-- I'M GOING PLANETSIDE.
NOW, WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT DOWN HERE?
NEXT: ACTION and RE-ACTION!

July 26, 2006

I tell you, you make one little comment, just one little statement, and not realize how it might affect people. I just happened to mention that I wanted Nightwing to die in INFINITE CRISIS. Didn't think much of it at the time. It was part of a *DC Nation* panel where we are known to shoot from the hip (we, I am, at least). I thought it was a funny story, but *boy*, did it piss people off. It seems that there is a **huge** (and, as I found out, very vocal) fan base for Dick Grayson. I guess I shouldn't be surprised.

In the halls of DC, Dick Grayson is considered one of the founding fathers of the Universe. But even though he had his own series, it always felt like he had somehow been relegated to a supporting role. Never to be Batman, no longer Rob n, he was neither rodent nor fowl. Even the name *Nightwing* was derived from Superman's past. My first reaction when I got my job was that he was redundant and had to go. Needless to say, I was quickly proven wrong.

So we had a new dilemma: if everyone wanted Dick to stay because he was important to the DCU, we needed to make him live up to his full potential.

Did you read **BRAVE NEW WORLD** last week? And, if you didn't, you are missing out on the comic book *bargain* of a lifetime!) Well, *finally* I can talk about the last two pages. Yes, the Monitor has returned, but it's not **one** Monitor, but a band of Monitors, sent to closely observe the heroes of the DCU. There's a good reason why they're here, but it won't only be revealed over time.

So, what does this have to do with Dick Grayson? Well, everything. It appears that one of the Monitors has taken a particular interest in Nightwing, and their first meeting will rock Dick's world. It's such an important story, we decided to bring in the *one* man who knows Nightwing and the Monitor best to tell it, **Marv Wolfman**. And while Marv man ton s that Monitor, the other Monitors will be showing particular interest in other heroes - Ion, Supergirl, Donna Troy, and . . well, that's enough for now. Let's just say that they are *all* being observed, very closely.

In BRAVE NEW WORLD we told everybody to "*Look to the Skies.*" During the months to come, the characters of the DCU will find out that the skies are looking down on them.

To be continued.

dan didio

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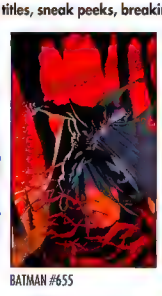
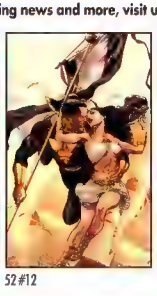
DC NATION

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at dccomics.com

THE HOT LIST THIS WEEK



BATMAN #655



52 #12

HAWKGIRL #54

Next in
ACTION COMICS #842
Superman, along with villains and heroes alike, has been captured by the Auctioneer! If they can't escape, Earth is doomed!

ACTION COMICS DAY: 1 of previous 2006. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: ACTION COMICS, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 338, Congers, NY 10920. Annual subscription rate: U.S. issues $27.00 CANADIAN issues $37.00 (prepaid in U.S. funds). Printed in the U.S.A. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

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BACK IN ACTION
"-- LET'S SEE WHAT'S THERE."
BALTIMORE --
His name is Carapax.
A brilliant mind, fused into a suit of alien armor. Trapped in the suit, he spends his time maintaining it, and seeking a way to escape.
STAY BACK! STAY BACK, OR I'LL --
By Kurt Busiek | Fabian Nicieza | Pete Woods
script / plot | plot | art
Brad Anderson, colorist • Rob Leigh, letterer
cover by Dave Gibbons • colored by Moose Baumann
Nachie Castro, associate editor • Matt Idelson, editor
SUPERMAN created by Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster
The past few years, he's kept out of the major cities, raiding warehouses and R&D firms where he can escape swiftly.
Today, though, he wanted some circuits available only at Dayton Labs in Baltimore.
SORRY, CARAPAX.
NO CAN DO.
CHURCH of GOD
My main concern right now is containing the damage, keeping him away from the church next door.
IN POSITION. READY KINETI-BLASTERS.
SUPERMAN, huh? I HEARD YOU WERE GONE.
I RETURNED.
DID THAT BEFORE, ONCE -- BUT THERE WERE FOUR OF YOU THEN, AND THEY ALL TURNED OUT TO BE FAKES!
SCU
Ah, COMMANDER? DO WE FIRE OR NOT? BYSTANDERS ARE CLEAR, BUT IF THAT ISN'T REALLY SUPERMAN --
YEAH, HE'S SAVED OUR BUTTS SO FAR, AND IF WE WIND UP BLOWING HIM TO SHREDS...

SAFE? DOES HE NOW THINK THAT MARRO WARRIORS ARE AFRAID OF A DARK CAVERN?
THIS IS THE CAVE OF SHADOWS, MUMBLING ONE...AND THAT MEANS WE'VE GOT AN ALLY NOT FAR FROM HERE.
SHE'S RIGHT.
CONCAN'S CASTLE IS ON THE OTHER SIDE.
WHO'S CONCAN?
HE IS AN ALLY WHO KEEPS HIS CASTLE WELL ARMED AND DEFENDED, AND THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW WITH A SQUAD OF MARRO ON YOUR TAIL.
UNDERSTOOD, SERGEANT.
DID ANYONE ELSE FEEL THAT? LIKE A COLD HAND ON YOUR NECK...?
THAT'S THE TOUCH OF NE-GOK-GA'S MIND POWER! HE'S IN HERE WITH US!
SYYARRIS! BACK OFF AND KEEP MOVING! GET SOME DISTANCE OR YOU CAN'T TRUST YOUR OWN THOUGHTS!
I'M NOT AFRAID OF HIM! I CAN DROP TWO MEN BEFORE MY ENEMY KNOWS THE FIGHT HAS BEGUN!! WE CAN TAKE THEM! LET'S GO!
NO! YOU'RE NOT THINKING STRAIGHT!
AGGHH!
LET'S GO! WE MUST KEEP MOVING!
ONLY A FEW MORE FEET AND WE'LL HAVE CONCAN'S ARMY AT OUR BACKS TO CHASE THIS BUNCH OFF.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE FINE...
OR NOT...

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Shown: Five master sets and 70 assorted expansion sets.